

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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November 8, 1996

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Consideration and Possible Adoption of Position of Support
for San Joaquin County's Proposed Sludge/Biosolids Ordinance

Background:

In July, 1996, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors directed County Department of Health Services staff to coordinate preparation of an ordinance to regulate application of sewage sludge, aka biosolids, on unincorporated lands in San Joaquin County.

A work group was invited to participate which included representatives of the generators of sewage sludge/City and other treatment facilities; commercial firms that apply sewage sludge/biosolids; representatives of agriculture; land owners; representatives of several County Departments; and others. The work group met every other week for several weeks reviewing and refining language for the draft ordinance.

Current Proposal:

The Department of Public Health Services has prepared a revised draft ordinance which is scheduled for public hearing before the Board of Supervisors on December 3, 1996 (see attached memo).

The proposed ordinance includes a prohibition which states: "The land spreading of biosolids within the area designated as the Delta Primary zone, as defined in the Delta Protection Act of 1992, is prohibited" (page 6, III(J)).

The proposed language is consistent with the Commission's recent action regarding Utilities and Infrastructure Policy P-3, adopted as a regulation in September, 1996.

Staff Recommendation:

The Commission should consider whether it would like to take a position of support regarding the proposed ordinance, as it pertains to the language regarding the Delta Primary Zone. If yes, the Commission could direct staff to prepare a letter to submit to the Board.

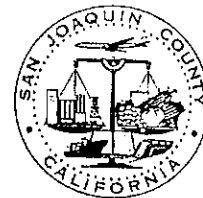
Attachment

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Ernest M. Fujimoto, M. D., M.P.H., Acting Health Officer
304 E. Weber Ave., Third Floor • P. O. Box 388 • Stockton, CA 95201-0388
209/468-3420



MEMORANDUM

October 29, 1996

TO: Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Ordinance Work Group Members,
Board of Supervisors Members

FROM: Laurie A. Cotulla, REHS, Operations Manager
San Joaquin County ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

SUBJECT: San Joaquin County Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Ordinance

Enclosed is the proposed San Joaquin County Biosolids Ordinance, the proposed EHD fee schedule for this program and the minutes of the October 3rd meeting.

The major revisions and additions made since our last meeting are as follows:

- The restrictions on food crop production after application of Class B biosolids have been clarified (page 7).
- The period of time between Class B biosolids spreading and the grazing of animals and harvesting of certain types of feed crops has been extended to 12 months. This time period may be reduced if Class A pathogen levels are met prior to application, or field testing after application reveals pathogen levels which are protective of animal and public health (page 7).
- The period of time between Class B biosolids spreading and harvesting of turf for use in areas with a high degree of public contact has been extended to 38 months. This time period may be reduced to 12 months if Class A pathogen levels are met prior to application, or field testing after application reveals pathogen levels which are protective of public health (page 7-8);
- The spreading of Class B biosolids will be limited to the months of May through August to avoid field conditions (high moisture/low temperature) which are favorable to enteric virus and helminth ova survival.

Also as a point of clarification, food crops will be defined as all crops which are consumed by humans whether or not the crop is normally processed prior to consumption.

We have also added a process for appeal of the denial of a permit (page 23-24) and clarified how the deed notification for Class B biosolids will be handled (page 10). We have removed some sections which were a duplication of 40 CFR 503. Several inconsistencies and redundancies pointed out in the comments were removed, and some sections were re-arranged to make them clearer.

The Initial Study for the CEQA review has been completed and the 30-day public review period for the Negative Declaration will begin this week. We will provide written responses to comments from those individuals who have requested responses in writing. The public hearing on

the ordinance, fee proposal and CEQA document is scheduled before the Board of Supervisors on December 3, 1996.

Once again we wish to thank you for your assistance with this project. Please call, Ed Padilla, Carol Oz or myself, at 468-3420, if you have questions about the CEQA process and/or the public hearing, or if you wish to receive a copy of this document on disk.

Enc: